

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

To expedite the prosecution of this application, rejected claims 5, 6, 11, 58, 59, 60, 63, and 69 have been cancelled. With the exception of claims 15, 16, and 17, the other claims pending in the application have been allowed.

Claim 15 depends from claim 1 and was objected to as being a substantial duplicate of claim 1. However, claim 15 sets forth the step of moving the first portion of the tube into the work station as including engaging the tube with a plurality of feed rollers and rotating the feed rollers to move the tube along a longitudinal central axis of the tube under the influence of force applied to the tube by the feed rollers. By setting forth the step of engaging the tube with a plurality of feed rollers and rotating the feed rollers to move the tube, it is believed that claim 15 is not a substantial duplicate of claim 1.

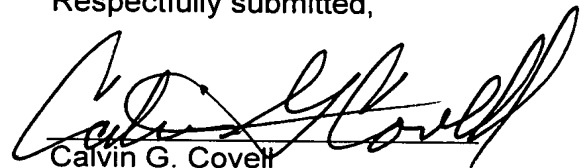
Claim 16 depends from claim 15 and sets forth the step of rotating the feed rollers to move the tube along the longitudinal central axis of the tube as including rotating at least one of the feed rollers about an axis which is skewed relative to a longitudinal central axis of the tube. By setting forth these steps, in combination with the steps set forth in claim 15, it is believed that claim 16 is not a substantial duplicate of claim 1.

Claim 17 depends from claim 15 and sets forth the step of rotating the feed rollers to move the tube along the longitudinal central axis of the tube as including rotating a first feed roller about a first axis which is skewed relative to the longitudinal central axis of the tube and rotating a second feed roller about a

second axis which is skewed relative to the longitudinal central axis of the tube. It is believed that by setting forth these steps in combination with the steps of claim 15, claim 17 is not a substantial duplicate of claim 1.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and this application passed to issue. If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner call applicant's attorneys in Cleveland, Ohio at 621-2234, area code 216. Please charge any deficiency in the fees for this application to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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